

Questions and Answers Regarding the Combined Teacher Residency Implementation and Expansion Grants Request for Applications (RFA)

March 17, 2023

Questions Clarifying the Timing of Grant Awards:

1. **Question:** Late award dates affect the number of residents programs project they can recruit for a fall start. Do you anticipate the timeline for the grant to end in June 2026 as the current RFA does, or will the grant end date be June 2027, allowing partnerships to have 3 residency cohorts with full enrollments?

Answer: The project period for the grant is determined by authorizing legislation. The Commission does not have the authority to extend the project period beyond June 30, 2026.

Questions Regarding Residency Consortia:

2. **Question:** Now that our consortium is up and running, we have another district that would like to join the program. Could we pursue an expansion grant with this RFA to add them to the current consortium?

Answer: Yes. The consortium can apply for an expansion grant to add a new LEAs into the consortium.

3. **Question:** If we are allowed to add a new LEA into our consortium with an expansion grant application, will the new grant follow the same timeline as our current implementation grant?

Answer: In the application responding to the combined Teacher Residency Implementation and Expansion Grant RFA, the consortium will need to clearly state when the first cohort supported by the expansion funds will be enrolled and begin working in mentor teachers' classrooms. It is up to the grantee to select a date that aligns with their other program. The award announcements for both due dates included in the combined Teacher Residency Implementation and Expansion Grant RFA would allow a funded program to enroll residents any time after that announcement is posted.

Questions Regarding Authorizing Legislation or the RFA:

4. **Question:** If a resident does not complete their 4-year commitment and the district is asking for repayment of the teacher residency stipend, what is the time frame that the district can offer the resident in terms of the repayment of their stipend?

Answer: Commission staff will notify the grant recipient of the amount to be recovered at the end of the life of the grant. It is a local decision to collect funds from the resident at the time they leave the grantee LEA or to track their four years of service in another California LEA.

5. **Question:** Appendix A, Authorizing Legislation (g) (3) states, "Provide candidate mentoring and beginning teacher induction support following the completion of the initial credential program necessary to obtain clear credential and ongoing professional development and networking opportunities during the candidates first years of teaching

at no cost to the candidate." Does this mean the LEA must cover all costs of induction support?

Answer: Authorizing legislation requires that beginning teacher induction support is provided at no cost to the resident but does not dictate whether it is the LEA or another funding source that pays for the induction support.

6. **Question:** On the cover page, we must identify the LEA's Fiscal Agent or person responsible for grant budget oversight. Would that person be an administrator, our Director of Fiscal Services, or our grant coordinator (who actually wrote the budget and will complete the annual reporting)?

Answer: This is a local decision.

7. **Question:** Do we need to include letters of support from school districts who already signed on to partner with the Teacher Residency *Capacity* Grant as part of our consortium? We understand they will need to sign Appendix E, but we are wondering if a letter of support is required as well, or should we submit a copy of the school district's original letter of support from the Capacity grant?

Answer: The combined Teacher Residency Implementation and Expansion grant is separate from the Teacher Residency Capacity Grant. All elements listed in the RFA must be included in the application for it to pass technical screening.

8. **Question:** I have a question about Appendix D. What does "Partner IHE - Residency Area" mean for #3--particularly "Residency Area" if Residency Areas were already identified in #1 of Appendix D?

Answer: Commission staff are seeking separate information with these two questions. Appendix D, Question #1 asks for the name of the LEA, or if a consortium, the LEAs where residents will be placed. It is important for the partnership to have a clear recruitment plan for resident placement especially if they will be assigning residents to multiple school sites. Because each site has different needs/common vacancies, applicants are demonstrating their understanding of those needs with this response. Appendix D, Question #3 must be answered by all applicants but is especially important for applications with multiple IHE partners. Commission staff use this information to verify that each IHE listed is approved to offer the credential areas identified.

Questions Regarding Actual Enrollment Numbers and IHE Partners:

9. **Question:** What happens if the recruitment (# of residents – funded) is not met at the end of a fiscal year?

Answer: Grant funds are awarded in annual disbursements based on actual enrollment and projections numbers. The first disbursement would be enough to fund the number of Year 1 residents projected in the application. In the event that actual enrollment for the first year is a fewer number of residents than projected, unspent or unencumbered funds will affect the following year's budget disbursements such that the next year disbursement will be adjusted to include funds that had not been spent or encumbered during the previous year.

10. **Question:** Can we change or add IHEs after the grant has been awarded? If yes, what is the process?

Answer: A change in IHE partners is possible and is handled on a case-by-case basis after a conversation between the grantee LEA and Commission staff. Deeply collaborative relationships between LEA and IHE partners has been found to be a key element in successful teacher residency programs. This may be difficult to maintain with continued movement among grant partners. Therefore, Commission staff encourage LEAs to apply for Teacher Residency Capacity Grants if IHE partnership exploration is needed. For information on the currently open Teacher Residency Capacity Grant, please visit the Commission's Teacher Residency Grant Program [webpage](#).